

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

U.S. Application No. 10/526,219

**REMARKS**

In this Amendment, claims 1, 10-11 and 22 have been amended, and claim 24 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13, 18-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gorbet (U.S. Patent No. 5,941,714). The Examiner also rejected Claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gorbet in view of Stout (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0093232), and Claims 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gorbet in view of Kompanik (EP 1473067).

The cited art fails to disclose “a code reader coupled to the controller means and configured to read a card code from a detachable cover card coupled to a surface of the planar card,” as required by claim 1. The cited art also fails to disclose “wherein one of the cards is a master card operable to communicate with each card and to activate an output of each card according to rules of the games stored therein, and the rest of the cards are slave cards each having a personality code based on a card code of a cover card detachably coupled to each slave card,” as required by claim 10, and “reading an identification code on a surface of each of the plurality of cards with a corresponding identification reader on each of the respective plurality of bases,” as required by claim 22.

At page 5 of the Office Action, the Office Action admits that Gorbet fails to disclose a code reader in a card that is configured to read a card code, that the personality code of the base

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is based on reading a card code from a cover card or reading an identification code from a surface of the cards. The Office Action then asserts that Stout teaches these limitations and that it would be obvious to modify the system of Gorbet with a two-layer puzzle piece of Stout for the purpose of encasing the internal circuitry of the puzzle piece. At page 7, the Office Action, however, contradicts itself by asserting that Gorbet discloses reading an identification code from cards at col. 7, lines 53-55. Applicants disagree with both assertions.

Gorbet describes an arrangement of polygonal elements that are able to effect data transfer among the elements. Gorbet then explains at col. 7, lines 53-55 that: “Generally, elements in accordance with the invention are given unique processor identifiers, and are configured to exchange at least this identifying information.” Although the elements have unique processor identifiers, the processor identifiers are not read from a card coupled to the element; instead, in Gorbet, each of these processor identifiers is stored in the memory of the element. Hence, there is no need to have a code reader or to read the code in Gorbet.

Stout does not describe puzzle pieces that have unique identifiers. In fact, in Stout, the puzzle pieces are designed so that they do not have unique identifiers. The specific purpose of Stout is to create a universal puzzle piece that can be connected to another universal puzzle pieces at any time and at any location without a need to know the location of the puzzle pieces. At paragraph [0052] and [0054] of Stout, which the Examiner points to in the Office Action, Stout explains that the puzzle piece may contain electronic circuitry that stores information such as audio data and video data that are provided to or recorded by the user. At no point, however,

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does Stout describe reading a code that identifies the particular puzzle piece from the first layer of the two-layered puzzle piece.

Similarly, Kompanik fails to disclose a code reader or reading a code from a cover card. In Kompanik, the code is inherent in the second puzzle piece; in particular, in Kompanik, it is the arrangement of the protrusions 7 (i.e., the unique shape of the connectors 5) that is used to identify which connector is coupled to the first puzzle piece. Kompanik, therefore, does not need a cover card to identify each of the second puzzle pieces.

Accordingly, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 10 and 22. Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-13, 18-21, 23 and 25-31 depend, directly or indirectly from one of the foregoing independent claims.

#### Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

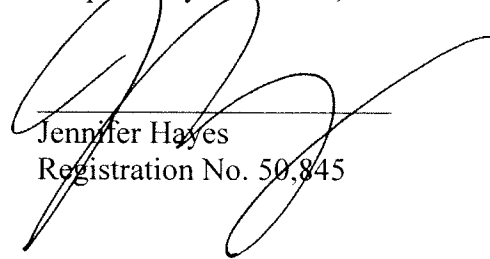
The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 50-3557. Applicants petition for any extension of time that may be necessary to maintain this application in force.

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Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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